

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ABC Visits 10 Lafayette Stores, Not One Sells Alcohol to Minors

(Lafayette) – Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) conducted a compliance check operation on May 25, 2007 in which minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 10 separate retail licensees in the city of Lafayette (Contra Costa County) and not one store sold to a minor.

“This is encouraging when the stores check identifications and refuse to sell alcohol to minors,” said ABC Deputy Division Chief Tim Gorsuch. “This will help keep California youth safe.”

Those who sell alcohol to a minor face a maximum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business’s liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for this program was provided by the Friday Night Live Partnership Grant Program. The grant came from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor’s Cabinet.